

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 2, line 19 – page 3, line 14, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Lactobacillus rhamnosus was regarded as a potential probiotic lactic acid bacterium that has an immune-enhancing property. Safety assessment of *L. rhamnosus* was also investigated. Zhou *et al.* disclosed that hematological parameters (red blood cell and platelet counts, hemoglobin concentration, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular hemoglobin, and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration); differential leukocyte counts; blood biochemistry (plasma total protein, albumin, cholesterol, and glucose); mucosal histology (epithelial cell height, mucosal thickness, and villus height); and bacterial translocation to extra-gut tissues (blood, liver, spleen, kidney and mesenteric lymph nodes) of mice administrated with *L. rhamnosus* showed similar profiles to those of the control mice (Zhou, J. S., Shu, Q., Rutherford, K. J., Prasad, J., Birtles, M. J., Gopal, P. K. and Gill, H. S. (2000) Safety assessment of potential probiotic lactic acid bacterial strains *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* HN001, *Lb. acidophilus* HN017, and *Bifidobacterium lactis* HN019 in BALB/c mice. *International Journal of Food Microbiology* 56: 87-96). In addition, Agerholm-Larsen *et al.* ~~discloses~~ disclose that administration of a ~~yoghurt~~ yogurt fermented with *L. rhamnosus* does not change low density lipoproteins (LDL)-cholesterol. On the other hand, only systolic blood pressure was significantly reduced (Agerholm-Larsen, L., Raben, A., Haulrik N., Hansen, A. S., Manders, M., and Astrup A. (2000) Effect of 8 week intake of probiotic milk products on risk factors for cardiovascular diseases. *Eur J Clin Nutr.* 54(4): 288-97). Accordingly, the conventional *L. rhamnosus* strain is evidenced that it does not change plasma total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol. Furthermore, no body weight change is observed when administration of the conventional *L. rhamnosus* strains.

At page 5, line 18-22, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The invention provides a novel microorganism strain *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GM-020, which is capable of treating obesity. The strain GM-020 was deposited with the China Center for Type Culture Collection (CCTCC), Wuhan University, Wuhan 230072 P.R. China, under the

accession number of CCTCC M 203098 on December 18, 2003.

At page 5, line 25-26, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The ~~mycological~~ microbiological characteristics of the Lactobacillus rhamnosus GM-020 are shown below:

Table 2 at page 7, line 10 – page 8, please amend Table 2 as follows:

Table 2:

Enzyme	Res- Ponse	Enzyme	Res- ponse	Enzyme	Res- ponse
Glycerol	-	Mannitol	+	D-Tagatos	+
Erythritol	-	Sorbitol	+	5-ceto- gluconate <u>5-</u> <u>keto-gluconate</u>	-
D-Arabinose	-	α -Methyl-D- Glucoside	+	2-ceto- gluconate <u>2-</u> <u>keto-gluconate</u>	-
L-Arabinose	-	N-Acethyl N- <u>Acetyl</u> glucosamine	+	Gluconate	-
Ribose	+	Amygdaline <u>Amygdalin</u>	+	L-Arabiylol L- <u>Arabitol</u>	-
D-Xylose	-	Arbutine	+	D-Arabitol	-
L-Xylose	-	Esculine	+	L-Fucose	-
Adonitol	-	Salicine	+	D-Fucose	-

β -Methyl-xyloside	-	Cellobiose	+	D-Lyxose	-
D-Glucose	+	Galactose	+	Inuline	-
D-Fructose	+	Lactose	+	Saccharose	-
D-Mannose	+	α -Methyl-D-mannoside	-	Glycogene	-
L-Sorbose	+	Melezitose	+	Xylitol	-
Rhamnose	+	D-Raffinose	-	β Gentiobiose	-
Dulcitol	-	Amidon	-	D-Turanose	
Inositol	-	Maltose	-	Melibiose	-
Trehalose	-				